

# Harford County Commission on Disabilities

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# Meeting Minutes

## February 27, 2006

## Attendance\*:

Members Present:

Bob Coen  
Councilman Guthrie  
Kathy Halliday  
Gilbert Kennedy  
Laurie Kwiedorowicz  
Joan Loftus  
Rhia Perry  
Marc Weinstein

Members Absent:

Susan Austin  
Angela Barnett  
Debbie Braam  
Buddy Green  
Stacey Hull

- I. Vice Chairperson Laurie Kwiedorowicz called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.
- II. Minutes: The minutes of the January 23, 2006 Commission meeting were approved as presented.
- III. Committee Reports:
  - A. Executive Committee: Membership: Two vacancies exist in the category of Individuals Representing Agencies Serving People with Disabilities; and, because of the untimely passing of Commissioner Keith A. Lewis, a vacancy exists in the category of a County Citizen Who Owns or Operates a Local Business or Who is an Employee of a Local Business.

*Striving for a Better Way of Life for Harford County Citizens with Disabilities*



- B. Accessibility Committee:
  - 1. Ramps for Homeowners and Renters Program: Because no ramps have been built up to this time, the Commission approved a motion to investigate seeking a private non-profit or faith-based sponsor for the ramps program. This process would be accomplished through the request for proposal (RFP) process. More information to follow.
  - 2. Housing Committee: No new information at this time.
- C. Education Committee: The Expo for Individuals with Disabilities will be held on March 18, 2006 at the New Life Center of the Mountain Christian Church on Mountain Road in Joppa. The Expo registration flyer is available in hard copy and on-line at the Commission's web page, [www.harfordcountymd.gov/services/disabilities](http://www.harfordcountymd.gov/services/disabilities) . Set-up for the Expo will take place at 4:30 p.m. on March 17, 2006 at the New Life Center. Volunteers are needed. Contact Debbie Braam or Sharon Grzanka for more information.
- D. Government and Community Relations Committee:
  - 1. Commission web page: Visit the Commission web page to see this month's "Spotlight on Services" on the [Harford County Chapter - Autism Society of America](#). Bob Coen is following reports of "visits" to the web page to identify visitor trends and successful features.
  - 2. Legislative Committee: The Commission voted to seek approval through its Legislative Procedure to support the following legislation:

HB 135: Prescription Drugs- Labeled with Audible Capability

HB 150/ SB 110: [Budget Bill \(Fiscal Year 2007\)](#)

SB 126: Department of Housing and Community Development- Partnership Rental Housing Program, Individuals with Disabilities

HB 301/ SB 294: Children, Youth and Family Services- Local Management Boards, State Coordinating Council and Local Coordinating Councils

IV. Disabilities Coordinator Report: no report.

V. Old Business:

- A. Transportation Steering Committee:
  - 1. As reported earlier, a team from Harford County has been selected to attend the Easter Seals Project Action Mobility Planning Services Institute, April 22-25, 2006 in Washington, DC. Team members include: Commission member Joan Loftus; Cheryl Gable, Mobility Trainer/Coordinator; Angie Kading, Chief Dispatcher, Harford Transit; Gail Fricke, Vocational Services Director, the Arc Northern Chesapeake Region; and Pat Parker, Job Developer, Alliance, Inc.
  - 2. The Mobility Trainer/Coordinator's hours were increased from 20 to 35 hours per week as of January 30, 2006. As of January 31<sup>st</sup>, 22 individuals have been successfully trained and to use Harford Transit to travel to work.
- B. Emergency Preparedness: No new report.
- C. Updating Commission brochure: No new information.
- D. Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS) Regional Meeting: The Commission will host the DORS Regional Public Input Meeting immediately following the March 27, 2006 Commission meeting. See attached flyer.
- E. Harford County Public Library Assistive Technology Open House: Joan Loftus and Sharon Grzanka attended an initial planning meeting for an assistive technology open house tentatively planned for October 2006. The Commission will co-sponsor. More information to follow.

VI. New Business: There was none.

VII. Public Comment and Announcements: There were none.

VIII. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m. The next meeting of the Commission will be held on Monday, March 27, 2006. Due to the larger audience expected at the DORS Public Meeting, the meeting will be moved to the McFaul Activities Center, 525 West MacPhail Road, Bel Air.

*These minutes are available in alternative format upon request.*